

***Western Governors Meet to Address Immigration Reform, Clean Energy, Land and Water Conservation Strategies, and Avian Flu Preparedness***

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DENVER – Western Governors will kick off their Annual Meeting Sunday in Sedona, Arizona, when they consider actions they can take on several fronts: spur Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform; increase clean and diverse energy resources in the West; encourage successful land and water conservation strategies; and help prepare states for a potential avian flu outbreak.

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, Chair of the Western Governors' Association, will host her colleagues June 11 – 13 in Sedona.

“These are all issues that present tremendous challenges to our individual states, the region and our country,” Napolitano said. “I look forward to hearing from my colleagues and experts in the field about the best strategies and options for making significant progress in addressing all of them.”

Plenary sessions and speakers include:

***Sunday, June 11 -- Clean Energy, a Strong Economy and a Healthy Environment***

- Joseph T. Kelliher, Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;
- Jeff Sterba, Chairman, President and CEO of PNM Resources;
- William J. Keese, former chairman of the California Energy Commission and co-chair of the WGA Clean and Diversified Energy Advisory Committee;
- Joseph Desmond, California Under Secretary for Energy Affairs;
- Sheryl Carter, Natural Resources Defense Council's Energy Program;
- Jim Sims, Western Business Roundtable; and
- Dan Trunfio, Global Bio-fuels Manager, Shell Downstream Incorporated.

***Monday, June 12 -- Growth and Conservation Strategies for the West***

- David Hayes, former Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior and currently partner at Latham Watkins;
- Bennett Raley, former Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, and currently partner at Trout, Raley, Montano, Witwer & Freeman;
- Dr. Rollie Sparrowe, founding Board Member of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; and
- Duane A. Smith, Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

***Tuesday, June 13 -- Pandemic Flu: Prepared or Panicked?***

- Dr. Stephen Prior, President of Quantum Leap Health Sciences;

- Dr. Reed Tuckson, senior vice-president of consumer health and medical care advancement for the United Health Group;
- Chris Viehbacher, President, US Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline; and
- Dr. Michael Samoszuk, Chief Medical Officer, Roche Diagnostics Corporation.

***Tuesday, June 13 – Board Meeting – Comprehensive Immigration Reform and Adoption of Policy Resolutions***

Among other action items governors will:

- discuss future actions to spur Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform this year;
- adopt policy resolutions that will guide the association's work on key issues;
- discuss wildland fire management issues and 2006 wildfire season; and
- elect a new Chair and Vice Chair for the coming year.

The meeting will be held at the Enchantment Resort in Sedona. An agenda and other meeting details are available on the Web at [www.westgov.org](http://www.westgov.org).

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*The Western Governors' Association is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the governors of 18 states and three U.S.-Flag islands in the Pacific. Through their Association, the Western governors identify and address key policy and governance issues in natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, international relations and public management.*